

1 CLAIMS

2 1. A method comprising:  
3 assigning a plurality of devices to a group;  
4 assigning at least one event-handling policy to the group, wherein the  
5 assigned policy is associated with each of the plurality of devices in the group; and  
6 evaluating a current state of each device before the assigned policy is  
7 applied to the device.

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9 2. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein evaluating a current state of  
10 each device determines whether each device is currently a member of the group.

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12 3. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein evaluating a current state of  
13 each device includes:

14 determining whether a particular device is currently a member of the group;  
15 and

16 applying the assigned policy to the particular device if the particular device  
17 is currently a member of the group.

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19 4. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein each device is assigned at  
20 least one additional policy that is not assigned to the group.

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22 5. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein a particular device is assigned  
23 to multiple groups.  
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1           **6.**    A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the event-handling policy  
2 defines how the device is configured.

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4           **7.**    A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the event-handling policy  
5 identifies the types of events that are provided to each device.

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7           **8.**    A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the method is implemented  
8 by a management module.

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10          **9.**    One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer  
11 program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim  
12 1.

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14          **10.**   An apparatus comprising:  
15          a group of devices having an associated event-handling policy;  
16          an event log configured to store event data; and  
17          a management module coupled to the group of devices and the event log,  
18 wherein a current state of each device in the group of devices is evaluated by the  
19 management module before the event-handling policy is applied to the device.

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21          **11.**   An apparatus as recited in claim 10 wherein a plurality of groups of  
22 devices are coupled to the management module.

1           **12.**    An apparatus as recited in claim 10 wherein each device in the  
2 group of devices is assigned at least one policy that is not assigned to the group.

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4           **13.**    An apparatus as recited in claim 10 wherein the event-handling  
5 policy defines how the devices are configured.

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7           **14.**    An apparatus as recited in claim 10 wherein the event-handling  
8 policy identifies the types of events that are provided to each device.

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10          **15.**    An apparatus as recited in claim 10 wherein the apparatus is part of  
11 an enterprise computing system.

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13          **16.**    An apparatus as recited in claim 10 wherein the management  
14 module receives event data generated by a plurality of event providers.

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16          **17.**    An apparatus as recited in claim 10 wherein the management  
17 module determines whether a particular device is currently a member of the group  
18 before the event-handling policy is applied to the device.

1       **18.** One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a  
2 computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, performs the  
3 process of:

4       assigning a plurality of devices to a group;  
5       identifying an event-handling policy associated with the group of devices;  
6       assigning the event-handling policy to the group of devices; and  
7       evaluating a current state of each device before the assigned event-handling  
8 policy is applied to the device.

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10       **19.** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 18  
11 wherein a particular device is assigned to multiple groups of devices.

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13       **20.** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 18  
14 wherein the event-handling policy defines the type of event data that is provided to  
15 each device.  
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